

STENT GRIP AND SYSTEM FOR USE THEREWITH.**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A method and apparatus for reducing the longitudinal aspect of the catheter to stent force comprises at least one grip member for use with a stent delivery system. The grip engages a stent in the unexpanded state prior to delivery of the stent by retracting a stent retaining sheath. The grip comprises a body region having an outer diameter, a first end and a second end. The outer diameter of the first end is greater than
10 the outer diameter of the second end. The grip is at least partially constructed from a polymeric material.